

sides of the body, white; hairs of the back palish gray at the base, those of the belly indistinctly tinted with very pale gray at the roots; ears and moustaches pale brown.

Habitat, New South Wales.

This species is about half-way between *Mus Rattus* and *Mus musculus* in size, and is remarkable for its delicate colouring. The molar teeth are figured in Plate 34; fig. 18. *a*, represents the molars of the upper jaw, and fig. 18. *b*, those of the lower.

GENUS—REITHRODON.*

Dentes primores $\frac{3}{4}$; *inferioribus acutis, gracilibus, et anticè lævibus; superioribus gracilibus, anticè longitudinalitèr sulcatis.*

Molares utrinque $\frac{3}{4}$ *radicati; primo maximo, ultimo minimo: primo superiore plicas vitreas duas externè et internè alternatim exhibente; secundo, et tertio, plicas duas externè, internè unam: primo inferiore plicas vitreas tres externè, duas internè; secundo, plicas duas externè, unam internè; tertio unam externè et internè, exhibentibus.*

Artus inæquales: antipedes 4-dactyli, cum pollice exiguo: pedes postici 5-dactyli, digitis externis et internis brevissimis.

Ungues parvuli et debiles. Tarsi subtus pilosi.

Cauda mediocris, pilis brevibus adpressis instructa.

Caput magnum, fronte convexo: oculis magnis: auribus mediocribus.

The present genus according to my views belongs to the family *Muridæ*. The modifications of structure which have led me to separate it from the genus *Mus* are as follows:

External characters.—The most conspicuous points of distinction between the external characters of *Reithrodon* and *Mus* (if we regard *M. rattus*, *M. decumanus* or *M. musculus* as typical examples of that genus,) consist in the arched form of the head, the large size of the eyes, the stout form of the body, and the upper incisors being grooved. The ears, tail and feet are more densely

* Ρεῖθρος, a channel; Οὰς, a tooth.

clothed with hairs, and the tarsus is covered with hair beneath,—at least the hinder portion.

Cranium.—The skulls of the species of the present genus differ from those of the species of *Mus* in being proportionately shorter and broader, and more arched; the facial portion of the skull is larger, compared with the cranial, the space between the orbits is narrower, and the orbits are larger; the palate is narrower and the incisive foramina are more elongated and larger. The pterygoids approximate anteriorly, so that the posterior *nares* are greatly contracted. As in the genus *Mus* the anterior root of the zygomatic arch is directed upwards from the plane of the palate, and forwards in the form of a thin plate, protecting an opening behind, which leads into the nasal cavity, and also forming the outer boundary both of the ant-orbital foramen, and a second opening whose outlet is directed upwards. This thin plate, however, is narrower than is usually found in the genus *Mus*. The most striking differences observable in the lower jaw consist in the smaller size of the coronoid process, and its being curved outwards; the condyloid process is narrower, and the angle of the jaw, or descending ramus, approaches more nearly to a quadrate form—the posterior edge of the jaw is more deeply emarginated.

Dentition.—The incisors are narrow and compressed as in the genus *Mus*, but they are less deep from front to back; those of the upper jaw (Plate 33. fig 2. *b*.) have each a distinct longitudinal groove, which is situated nearer to the outer than to the inner edge of the tooth. Close to the inner edge of each of these teeth an indistinct second longitudinal groove may be seen by means of a lens. The lower incisors are nearly equal in width to the upper.

The crowns of the molar teeth in the young *Reithrodon* are higher than in *Mus*, and they are rootless; in the adult animal, however, they possess distinct roots. The folds of enamel form sigmoid flexures, are closely approximated to each other, and those of the opposite sides of the tooth meet.

1. REITHRODON CUNICULOÏDES.

PLATE XXVI

Reithrodon cuniculoïdes, *Waterh.*, Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London for February 1837, p. 30.

R. suprà griseus, flavo-lavatus, pilis nigris intermixtis; abdomine gulâque pallidè flavis; natibus albis; pedibus albis; auribus mediocribus, intus pilis flavis, extus pilis pallidè flavis, obsitis; pone aures, notâ magnâ albescenti-flavâ; caudâ corpore breviorè, suprà pallidè fuscâ, subtus albâ.

DESCRIPTION.—Head rather large and arched; ears moderate; tail nearly as long